

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOME 00282 051754Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 FTC-01 INT-08 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 /179 W

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O R 051012Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0282

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EAID, PFOR, TO

SUBJ: NATIONALIZATION OF CTMB

REF: (A) STATE 023163 (NOTAL); (B) LOME 0273; (C) LOME 0279
(NOTAL).

1. PRESIDENT EYADEMA RECEIVED ALL AMBASSADORS IN GROUP AT
0700 THIS MORNING TO THANK THEM FOR MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE AND
SUPPORT AND TO EXPLAIN HIS DECISION TO NATIONALIZE CTMB. HIS
RECITAL, WHICH CONTAINED NOTHING NEW, STRESSED RIGIDITY OF
COMPANY IN ADHERING TO AGREEMENT SIGNED BEFORE TOGOLESE INDEPEN-
DENCE, AN ATTITUDE WHICH HE CONTRASTED WITH FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS
TO REVISE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT
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DID NOT MENTION QUESTION OF COMPENSATION AND DID NOT, AS HE

HAS REPEATEDLY DONE IN LAST FEW DAYS, LINK HIS AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT DIRECTLY WITH FOREIGN PARTNERS OF CTMB.

2. WHILE I GREATLY APPRECIATE LATITUDE AFFORDED ME BY DEPARTMENT (REF A), I DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY AT MEETING TO DISCUSS COMPENSATION ISSUE WITH EYADEMA NOR WOULD I HAVE DONE SO HAD OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF. I BELIEVE BEST APPROACH AT THIS TIME IS TO KODJO. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS RETURNED EARLY FROM LEAVE, SAW EYADEMA YESTERDAY. AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT EYADEMA ASSURED HIM THAT COMPENSATION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING AND AMOUNTS WOULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH COMPANY. PRESIDENT ALSO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT HE WANTED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GROUP FORMED TO HELP MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF PLANT IN TOGO. PRESUMABLY THIS WILL CONSIST, AT LEAST AT FIRST, OF EUROPEANS WHO ARE ALREADY THERE.

3. ALTHOUGH TOGO-PRESSE TODAY REPORTS ADOPTION BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS YESTERDAY OF ORDINANCE "NATIONALIZING" CTMB, EXACT TEXT IS NOT GIVEN. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER, CTMB BECOMES A STATE COMPANY WHOSE CAPITAL IS ENTIRELY SUBSCRIBED BY TOGOLESE STATE. ALL CONTRARY EARLIER PROVISIONS, NOTABLY AGREEMENT OF 12 SEPTEMBER 1957 BETWEEN SOCIETE MINIERE DU BENIN AND GOVERNMENT OF AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF TOGO, ARE ABROGATED.

4. I HOPE GRACE WILL NOT RPT NOT ISSUE ANY DENIAL OF COMPLICITY IN ALLEGED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. AS I PERHAPS DID NOT MAKE CLEAR ENOUGH IN MY EARLIER REPORTING, AMERICAN PARTNERS OF INTEREST HAVE NOT IN ANY WAY BEEN IDENTIFIED BY EKLO, PRESIDENT, OR OTHER SPEAKERS WITH ALLEGATIONS OF ATTEMPTED MURDER. FRENCH HAVE BEEN UP TO NOW SOLE TARGETS OF VERBAL ABUSE. PRESIDENT HIMSELF HAS SLANTED HIS ACCOUNTS IN SUCH WAY AS TO BLAME OTHER PARTNERS FOR REFUSING PERMISSION TO ONE PARTNER (I.E. GRACE) TO SELL STOCK TO GOVERNMENT IN 1972. PRESIDENT DID SAME THING IN HIS ACCOUNT THIS MORNING.
DICKINSON

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Message Attributes

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